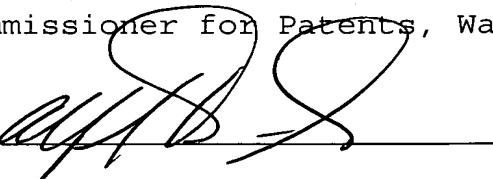


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

By: 

Date: March 16, 2005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : John Montminy et al.  
Applic. No. : 10/699,134 Confirmation No. 3469  
Filed : October 31, 2003

Title : THREADED CONNECTION FOR CARBON AND/OR  
GRAPHITE ELECTRODE COLUMNS

Examiner : Tu Ba Hoang  
Group Art Unit : 3742  
Docket No. : SGL 03/6  
Customer No. : 24131

A M E N D M E N T

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S i r :

Responsive to the Office action dated December 16, 2004 kindly  
amend the above-identified application as follows:

Applic. No. 10/699,134  
Amdt. dated March 16, 2005  
Reply to Office action of December 16, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 8 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 15 of this paper.